

been the training of commercial and private applicators. That has been done through Extension Service, the University of Nebraska. That will continue to be done whether we pass 161 or not. The issue at hand is whether Nebraska should assume a more direct role in the...not only in the training, but also in the enforcement and administration of the program. As has been noted already, we are the only state right now that has not done anything and my concern is that the groundwater we keep talking about is not the federal government's groundwater, it is Nebraska's groundwater, and it is the people of Nebraska that consume that groundwater and we have to preserve I think the integrity of the groundwater in whatever method we can. And as I said, Senator Schmit and I have had a dialogue since this bill was introduced last year to try and work out our differences about the bill and what it does and I think the important thing that we have to do is to somehow either shape our own state program or go with this program and get something done to preserve the groundwater quality. Now, I have asked Senator Schmit to put a motion on this bill to delay it until such time as the Natural Resources Committee will have a chance to hear LB 1099. At that time we can compare what these two bills do, whether that bill can actually correct the problem or maybe this bill is the only vehicle that we use. But the important thing as I see it, is that we cannot continue to ignore the problem and it has been well documented I think in this body as with the solid waste issue that we discussed yesterday or in this case, the groundwater issue that we are slow to act to the problems until there is a crisis. Well, I don't want to wait that long until our groundwater is actually contaminated and then at that time respond to the problems. But I have consented, in order to appease all the groups involved in here, both farm organizations, fertilizer organizations, state senators and other interest groups that we delay this bill at least until such time as 1099 is introduced and discussed and heard by the Natural Resources Committee and at that time the committee, at least, can take a peek at what that does in comparison with this and maybe that's a better vehicle to use, I don't know. I think the question is how much autonomy, how much support will we have, how much control of the destiny of a program like this will we have in the future and so, as I have asked this body time and time again, we need to do more, we recognize that we have a problem and that maybe 1099 is a better vehicle. I understand many of the farm organizations, the fertilizer organizations are in support of that concept, but we, you know, I think the important thing is we cannot ignore our